WEEKLY RECORD.

Devoted to the Mining, Lumbering, Milling, and General Interests of Lake of the Woods.

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A TRIUNE CITY.

The Future Manufacturing Centre of The West.

A Mining Town and a Summer Resort.

On the north shore of the Lake of the Woods is the beginning of a city destined to become to the Canadian Northwest what Minneapolis is to the Northwestern states. We now have the three towns, Rat Portage, Norman and Keewatin, built along the line of the Canadian Pacific railway within a distance of three miles, with a total population of 4,000. Our water power is greater and can be more readily utilized than that of Minneapolis. What has already been done and is now in preparation, establishes the fact that the bulk of the milling and manufacturing of our great west will be done here. Besides our water power and timber there is also indubitable evidence of great mineral wealth in our immediate vicinity, which will unquestionably add to our importance as a business centre. As a pleasure resort our attractions are already well known and are yearly becoming more popular. Having so much to assure us of the future we may, with confidence, look for the establishment of a large and prosperous triune city, the tendency of the three places being to grow together.

RAT PORTAGE.

The standard of settlement and civilization was first planted on what is now known as Miller's island by the late George McPherson, then a trader for the Hudson's Bay Co. The post was afterwards removed to the east shore of Pequonga bay where Rat Portage now stands. The name is a literal translation from the Indian of Washeshkoonicum, or "the place where the (musk) rats cross." The particular spot meant is the site whereon is now built the sawmill of Messrs. Dick, Banning & Co., in Keewatin. The construction of the Canadian Pacific railway through here eleven years ago when the country was an unbroken wilderness was the means of inducing the establishment of different lines of business, a number of which have continued to the present time with yearly increase of business. We now have two sawmills, each cutting ten million feet a year, which employ a large number of men. The C. P. R. early made this their divisional point, and we have their repair shops, and many of their trainmen make this their headquarters. We have also a considerable mining population. Space at this time forbids us giving a particular description of the different branches of business now being carried on, suffice it to say that western push and enterprise has left little to be desired in the various mercantile lines. We have also first class public and separate schools and churches of the different denominations, the various secret and benevolent societies, and generally all the concomitants of our nineteenth century civilization.

NORMAN.

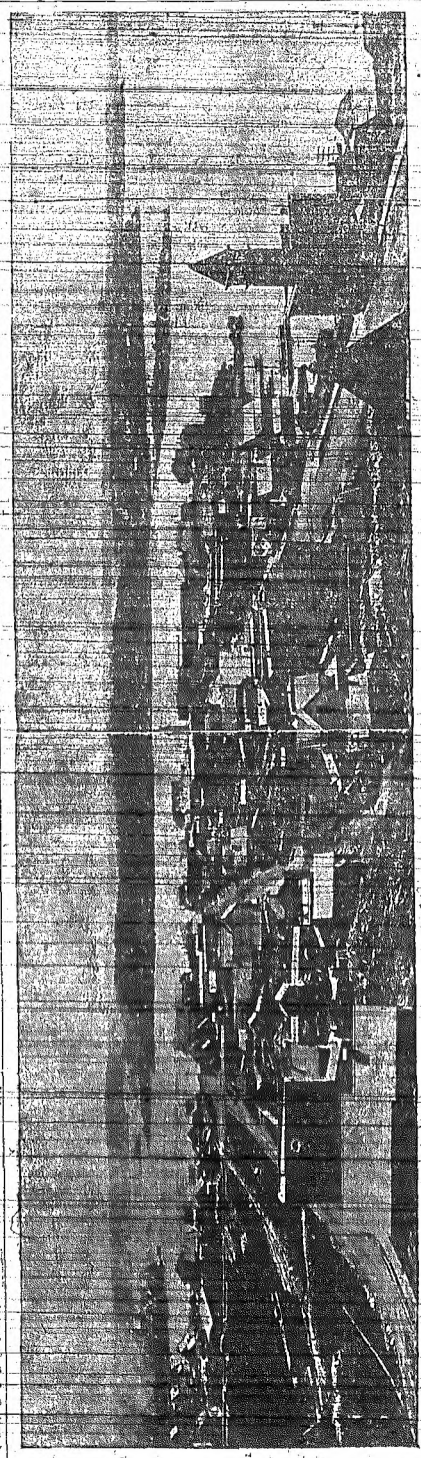
This place is at present wholly supported by the sawmills of Messrs. Cameron & Kennedy, the Minnesota and Ontario Lumber Co., and the Bulmer mill, each having a capacity of from eight to ten million feet. It lies between Rat Portage and Keewatin and may some time be the hub of the triune city of the future. It is within the municipality of Rat Portage, from which it is separated by Tunnel Island and the two branches of the Winnipeg river. It has two general stores, hotels, bakery, butcher shop and other lines, with a public school and hall for meetings and church services.

KEEWATIN.

This town was established thirteen years ago by the bringing in of extensive sawmill machinery overland from Winnipeg to the Northwest Angle and by water from there by a company known as the Keewatin Lumber Co., of which Mr. John Mather was the moving spirit. It has since grown to a population of 1,500 and has now the various lines of mercantile trade established within its limits which adjoin Norman on the east. Particular reference is made to some of its enterprises elsewhere.

NAVIGATION.

There are 22 steamers on the Lake of the Woods, with an aggregate tonnage of 722. There are also two small steamers on Rainy Lake. The employment of these is nearly entirely in connection with the lumbering interests on the Lake of the Woods and the tributary waters mentioned.



Rat Portage, with Coney Island in the Distance.

This illustration shows only the business portion of the town. The residence streets, including Church hill, where the court house is situated, are not shown, as it is not possible to take these in one view.

REDUCTION OF ORES.

Works that Produce Gold Bricks.

Up to the present time there has been no enterprise in Canada of this nature, that will enable the owners of mines to obtain thorough treatment of their ores. This long felt want is now supplied, and we can note the fact that we have within the limits of our town a magnificent works, designed for the extraction of the precious metals from all kinds of refractory ores. The importance of being able to chronicle this event will not be fully realized until these works have been the cause of developing the now many dormant mines, within our immediate vicinity, as well as the development of mines at a distance, both east and west.

We have indeed been fortunate in having the location of such works at Rat Portage. The promoters of the enterprise having explored many locations along the Canadian Pacific Railway, decided after a thorough investigation that this point was the most favorable for their purpose. The officers of the company, on being interviewed, gave a few of the reasons why this was the most favorable point. The works are located on a body of water about 100 miles long and forty miles wide, and having tributary to it a great number of lakes, large and small, ores can be cheaply transported, at least for a distance of 250 miles. Around this Lake of the Woods and the adjacent smaller lakes and tributaries are numerous veins of gold ore, and carriage being cheap, ores of a low grade can be profitably mined and placed on the docks of the company. There are also many veins of auriferous ore on the islands in the Lake, which are estimated to number over 20,000, varying in size from a red square to miles in extent. This vast region, of which only a tithe has been explored, has been under a cloud from the fact that all of the islands were leased to a lumber company some years ago, and that lease, with almost freehold possession conditions, remained in force until within the past few months, which now being surrendered, allows the islands to be entered upon and developed.

The mineral found in this region is not confined to gold alone, because silver, nickel, iron and copper are found in paying quantities, but the developments thus far have proven that gold predominates as to value. Besides the cheap facilities for transportation by water, and besides the cost of having wood for fuel in abundance, not only on the islands of the Lake, but upon its shores, these works are located on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, whereby ores can be cheaply transported from the far west, as well as from the east. For nine hundred miles eastward it is an unbroken rugged mineral country, explored only in the immediate vicinity of the railroad.

These works began operation some weeks ago, and successfully treated the ores from the well known Sultana mine, and the first brick of gold was an exhibition in Rat Portage during the holidays. The gold brick is of a purity of 999, and the first clean up demonstrated the fact that the ore yielded enough precious metal to be a profit to the mine owner, after mining and expense of treatment were paid.

The works are as complete as any in the United States, having a capacity of 100 tons per day, which the company purpose shortly increasing to 200 tons. The mill building is located upon a solid rock, of which much had to be blasted out to accommodate the lower portion of the mill, the machinery being located upon steps or benches in order to have the ores pass from one floor to another by gravity. The docks of the Company are ample to accommodate all ores that may be brought by water, and the railroad spur is flanked by ore bins of sufficient size to enable cars to be unloaded with despatch. A tramway from this spur runs into the top of the mill and dumps the ore from the cars into the large rock breakers. From the two rock breakers, which not only crush but pulverize the rock to the fineness of chestnuts, the ore is carried by steel buckets to the top of the building, whence it is dropped into bins and from them automatically fed into the ore pulverizers. These pulverizers discharge the ore through screens of any size required. This fine ore or pulp is carried by gravity over concentrating tables into large amalgamating pans, and from thence it is carried by gravity into settling tubs and settling vats, and finally into clean up pans, and over riffles, then accounting all, or at least a high percentage of the precious metal contained therein. The gold that is caught by the quicksilver in these various vessels is strained therefrom, and the residue, which is called amalgam, is taken to the laboratory retort and subjected to a high degree of heat, vaporising the quicksilver which is condensed in its discharge from the retort, and the gold remaining in the retort is of a spongy and porous character. It is then taken out and subjected to a process of refining, all silver being separated therefrom. The gold bars are taken and are given the Company's seal, certifying to the value thereof, which is done as correctly as it would be at the United States Mint.

Ores of a refractory nature are taken, direct to the reverberatory furnace and chlorodized or desulphurised, thus eliminating all of the rebellious elements. This is the preparatory treatment through which the ore passes according to its character, and finally finds its way to the lower portion of the mill, as already described. The smelting department is equipped with a suitable smelting furnace, adapted to the treatment of high grade ores, either of gold or silver. The laboratory is fitted out with a complete system for anyalyzing and assaying ores, and anything that pertains to mineral chemistry. The laboratory room is located upon the ground floor, having a solid rock beneath, coated over with cement, which admirably adapts it to its requirements.

The importance of this enterprise can hardly be estimated, but it will undoubtedly prove to be an avenue from which great values will flow, and will give an impetus not only to the mining of gold and silver ores, but it will be a cause of reaching every line of business in Canada, because the production of every dollar in gold will enable the Government to exchange the same for a gold dollar or sovereign, which will pass from one to another, thus giving life and vitality to business.

The Company is in a position to invite and solicit the patronage of all mine owners, as it is a custom mill and treats the ore at a given price, based on its character and value. It is incorporated under the laws of Ontario, and is known as "The Lake of the Woods Gold and Silver Reduction Works Co., Limited." The president of the Company, Mr. Robert Linn, is entitled to and receives great credit for his indomitable perseverance in overcoming the ordinary difficulties in securing the erection and operation of these Works. In the practical and mechanical part of their construction he had an able coadjutor in Mr. Henry J. Powers. The services of Mr. Chas. Brent, who is a thorough mill man and comes well recommended, have recently been secured to direct the operation of the Works. The secretary is a shrewd business man, who looks well after the interest of the Company, and to him (Mr. J. P. Larkin, Rat Portage, Ont.,) all communications should be addressed.

Undoubtedly the future of this region looks bright, and much progress in mineral development may be looked for in the near future. The Rat Portage Reduction Works have before them excellent prospects, and the shareholders of the Company should reap a golden harvest from their investment.

OUR DISTRICT.

Lake of the Woods.

The Topography, Geology, Minerals, Climate and Scenery.

WALPOLE ROLAND, C. & M. ENGR.

(Written for The Review.)

The Rainy River District comprises all that part of Western Algoma lying west of the 91st meridian of west longitude. It is bounded on the south by the State of Minnesota, and upon the north and west by the Province of Manitoba, while the northern boundary of the Rainy River District is naturally defined by the Rainy river, from the 91st meridian to the mouth of said river, from whence it follows the United States boundary to the Northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods; hence the boundary (adjoining Manitoba), is due north to the English river and along that stream to Lac Seul, or Lac St. Joseph, to the point of intersection with the 91st meridian of longitude west from Greenwich; containing an area of 22,500 square miles. In a word, this most important section of the Province may be said to lie between the height of land west of Lake Superior, and the Winnipeg river. In its general aspect it is a hilly and broken country, intersected by rapid rivers and widespread lakes. The hills of the interior frequently rise to considerable height. There are numerous rich alluvial valleys found in this land, the richest and most extensive of which is that of Rainy river. The lakes and rivers everywhere present long reaches of navigable water, the principal of which, extending from Fort Frances to the western extremity of Lac Plat, is 158 miles in length. Dense forest cover most of this region, and the most valuable kinds of wood are seen in various places and in considerable quantities. Elm is found on Rainy river, and white pine is abundant along the waters which flow into Rainy Lake. Between Lagimaga, Seine and Maligne rivers there are extensive forests of red and white pine. Occasional white pine appears in the beautiful valley of Rainy river and on the innumerable islands of the Lake of the Woods.

The approach to this point, FORT FRANCES, is really picturesque. Nearing the outlet of Rainy Lake, and entering Rainy river the right bank is quite park like, the tall trees standing far apart, and having the rounded tops peculiar to those seen in open grounds. Blue oak, balsam and Lombardy poplar, with a few aspen, are, however, the principal forest trees. These line the bank and for two miles after leaving the lake the voyageur glides downwards between walls of emerald green, until the Fort is reached. This ancient post of the Hudson's Bay Co. is beautifully situated on the right bank of the Rainy river, immediately below the falls. All kinds of grain are raised here, and garden vegetables of every description flourish luxuriantly. The length of this navigable river is about 80 miles. The right, or Canadian bank, for the entire distance, is covered with a heavy growth of forest trees, shrubs, climbing vines, wild roses, and as a matter of fact a charming variety of flowers. The forest trees consist of oak, elm, ash, birch, basswood, balsam, spruce, tamarac, white cedar, aspen, balsam-poplar, and white and red pine near the Lake of the Woods.

The euphonious name of "ALBERTON" has been given to this new settlement, the inhabitants of which may be counted among the most industrious, hardy and happy of pioneers.

The cultivable area of land in this immediate section is variously estimated, and according to Professor Hind, who journeyed over this route in 1857, "exceeds 200,000 acres." Another distinguished voyageur, Sir George Simpson, places the agricultural area a little higher, and describes the district as "a perfect paradise, compared with the adamantine desert of Lake Superior," adding that "one cannot pass through this fair valley without feeling that it is destined, sooner or later, to become the happy home of civilized men; with their bleating flocks and lowing herds—their schools and their churches, their full garners and their social hearths." It is now over half a century since these prophetic words were penned, and could the observant old "Governor of the Hudson's Bay Territories" (Sir George), but cast a glance over this scene, however swift and fleeting, he would most cordially realize the vision that rose before him when he penned the foregoing and following lines, while gliding down from the Fort to the Portage du Rat in his bark canoe: "Is it too much for the eye of philanthropy to discern, through the vista of futurity, this noble stream, connecting as it does the fertile shores of the spacious lakes, with crowded steamboats on its bosom, and populous towns on its margin."

LAKE OF THE WOODS.

Of the numerous lakes in this district, the Lake of the Woods is the most extensive. From Lac Plat, which may be regarded as its western extremity, to Whitefish Lake, which is a somewhat similar extension in an opposite direction, the distance is little short of 100 miles; and from the mouth of Rainy river, at the entrance of the Lake, to its outlet at Rat Portage, in latitude 49° 47' north, and longitude 94° 44' west, the distance is about 70 miles, so that altogether it occupies an area of about sixteen hundred square miles.

This extensive sheet of water is interspersed with islands, on some of which the Indians have grown maize from time immemorial, and have rarely, if ever, found it fail. It would be most difficult to conceive of anything more beautiful of its kind than the scenery of this lake. Islands rise in continuous clusters, and in every variety of form. Sometimes in passing through them the prospect seems entirely shut in; soon again it opens out, and through long vistas a glance is obtained of an ocean-like expanse, where the waters meet the horizon.

The prevailing formation in the Rainy Lake district is the Laurentian. This series occupies a most extensive area, between the height of land and the Lake of the Woods, touching the Lake shore and islands at various points. It consists of granite, gneiss, syenite and micaceous schists, almost entirely. Its numerous, and in places strongly defined veins of quartz and spar carry the ores of chalco-pyrites, native copper, iron pyrites, galena, zinc blende, and last, but not least, the ores of native, free and refractory gold. SILVER, it is true, occurs in some of the auriferous quartz veins of the Lake of the Woods, as at Fine Portage, and its mammoth cousin, the King lode, but only as an accessory mineral, in small quantities; occasionally, however, assays reported assays of Fine Portage ore show, in greater proportion by weight than the gold, while assays and mill tests of the rich ores from the famous Sultana island, including the Hennessey, x 42-3 locations, the Heenan and Ophir, vary in yield of silver from 1 to 35 ounces to the ton, and gold, by reliable check assays, of from 1 to 300 ounces to the ton of two thousand pounds.

THE HURONIAN.

This important series lies principally between the Laurentian and Silurian, striking occasionally in a north-easterly direction in broad belts and tongues into the Laurentian. The Huronian or "Keewatin," as it is locally named, occupies a large area on the Lake of the Woods, as well as upon the margin of Rainy Lake, where it meets its higher series of the Couchiching group. The typical Huronian (Logan's) consists of greenish and greenish grey strata, with a dip nearly vertical. The principal portions have a slaty structure, consisting of chloritic, argillaceous, talcose, silicious, dioritic, and fine grain micaceous slates, with interstratified beds of massive diorite, frequently much tilted. It is from these slates, at or near their line of contact with the Laurentian granites, that we look for, and as a matter of fact obtain our best results in gold in western Algoma generally. To these and their kindred igneous rocks Dr. Lawson, late of the Dominion Geological Corps, applied the distinctive name of Keewatin to the entire series, remarking at the same time that "they were evidently of Huronian age," adding "that I feel it incumbent upon me at the outset to say a few words on the nomenclature of the series of rocks comprised within it, and particularly to question the advisability, in the light of recent investigations, of relegating these rocks to a position stratigraphically and geognostically equivalent to the typical Huronian of Sir William Logan, as described in his Geology of Canada in 1863." Dr. Lawson then proceeds to draw comparisons in order to clearly demonstrate the difficulty in proving the equivalency or non-equivalency of any two widely separated sets or series of Archean rocks devoid of fossils. "On the other hand," continues the Doctor, "these very rocks themselves establish the fact that volcanic activity played a much more important part in the development of the formation of Archean times than that of later geological ages, and further, since these volcanic rocks were mixed with ordinary aqueous sediment, and the volcanic action was intermittent and irregular, we would expect to find series of the same geological age of all gradations of lithological character, from an almost wholly volcanic to an almost wholly sedimentary composition," and illustrating or demonstrating very satisfactorily that lithological character is only one of several considerations that must be taken into account in a question of co-relation of two geological series geographically separated. There are unquestionably many points of difference between these series, one characteristic feature of the gneisses surrounding this area being its passage into granites devoid of foliation. THE GRANITE AND GNEISSIC ROCKS which underlie the Keewatin series may be said to be characterized by a fairly well defined and persistent porphyroid structure. The feldspar is the most abundant constituent and pre-eminently most developed crystallographically. Almost everywhere along the line of contact to the south of the Keewatin area the gneisses are of very coarse textures, and this is true of the gneiss for considerable distance across the strike of the foliation, in some places the orthoclase crystals attaining a diameter of upwards of an inch, with a distinct flowed structure of the other constituents of the gneiss around them.

THE PINE PORTAGE AND KING MINES.

The rocks in this vicinity to the east of the contact with the schists in which the shafts are sunk is a reddish to mottled flesh tint, and of eminently granitic aspect. All the constituents, orthoclase, mica and quartz, are well developed and coarsely crystalline, and according to the observations of Messrs. Coste and Lawson there is no trace of gneissic foliation. It is, however, regarded as a porphyritic granite in this vicinity, while its extension eastward to and beyond Long Lake, where it assumes gradually, by transition barely perceptible, a gneissic arrangement of the crystals, until eventually, on the shores of Long Lake, it presents quite a distinctly gneissic foliation, and in proportion as the gneissic foliation is more distinctly developed towards the south-east, it presents more and more the character of an intrusive breccia.

ROSSLAND SECTION.

The rocks in this immediate vicinity are mostly coarsely crystalline basic, composed largely of, trielinic feldspar and biotite with bluish quartz, as at the Caribou lodes and vicinity of Hilly Lake, the "Rajah" and other adjacent tracts being doubtless an integral part of the granitoid gneisses into which they merge.

SULTANA.

The formation of Quarry Island and a portion of the George Heenan and MacMicken (Ophir) on Sultana are near the line of contact, and largely composed of coarse gneiss of Laurentian age, while the surrounding formation embraces the hornblendic schists and altered traps, with chloritic schists of volcanic origin, and, in fact, the entire area of Indian reserve 33 B and north-west to Rat Portage is chiefly composed of the hornblendic slists and altered traps of volcanic origin. HAY ISLAND, excepting a narrow strip, Pine island, Cochrane island, Darlington Bay, Matheson Bay, while nearly or directly upon the junction of the granitoid gneisses, are all well within the hornblendic, hydromicaceous and chloritic schists. At THE NARROWS, at entrance to Shoal Lake, the same conditions prevail, excepting the occurrence of a small patch of intrusive granite and serpentine; and from Allin Island, through Hell Diver and Big Stone Bays, the Keewatin formation predominates.

MINERALS.

Many veins of great promise have been tested and examined within this area, in most of which free gold is visible. From the south end of HILLY LAKE a fine system of veins prevails, generally parallel to the line of contact of the hornblendic schists and altered traps with the granitoid gneiss of the Laurentian, tending southward and southeastward to the base of Pipestone Point. These include the Rossland, Stuart, Eschweiler, Twin Sisters, Pine Portage, King, Ernst or Gold Creek, Sultana, x 42 and 3, the Heenan, Ophir, Gold Hill, x 90, the Winnipeg Consolidated, "Ada G" and others, all more or less developed, and their value fairly well established. Many of the foregoing auriferous lodes have long been discovered both upon the islands and mainland, the issue of titles to which, unfortunately, has long been delayed, thereby literally strangling the goose that lays the golden egg with a vengeance! The titles to almost the entire number of the gold mining claims in this district are now made from the Crown, but it is no stretch of imagination to say that but for the blundering and tinkering of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, I may add, the double-barrelled density of those ignoramuses calling themselves "wise" and paternal(?) rulers of this Province and this fair Dominion, the golden egg and golden age would have dawned upon us long years ago. But all things come to those who wait(?) The mining men of this district have now a brilliant future before them, and it is quite apparent from their present intelligent and practical activity that they will attain to that future in all its grandeur.

CLIMATE AND ELEVATION ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

The climate of a district is materially affected by the position and physical geography of the country to which it belongs; and it is an acknowledged scientific fact that when the latitude, longitude and height of a place above the level of the sea are given, and its position relative to mountain ranges and the ocean is known, a close approximate estimate may be formed as to its climate. The climate of this particular district is one of extremes. The winters are cold, the temperature sometimes falling as low as 30 degrees below zero of Fahrenheit's thermometer, and in summer rising, not infrequently, to 90 degrees in the shade, the mean temperature of the summer being over 60 degrees. The snow fall in the lake district, as a rule, exceeds that of Ottawa, our immense water stretches apparently exercising a local influence on the humidity of the atmosphere, and, in consequence, on the amount of snow fall. The Lake of the Woods has an elevation of 1062 feet above the level of the sea; the Stewart, Caribou and Eschweiler mines, near Rossland, 1125 feet; Beaver Crossing, 1183 feet; Hawk Lake, 1286 feet; Osterhout, 1102 feet, and Rat Portage 1084 feet. All of these points are immediately upon the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway, and the levels are the result of close instrumental work from the Atlantic to this place, and westward to the Pacific Ocean.

SCENERY IN VICINITY OF THE TOWN OF RAT PORTAGE.

Without the risk of extending this paper to an inconvenient length, I fear it will not be possible to refer, however briefly, to the glacial denudation and striæ so conspicuous throughout the Laurentian, and consequently, for the present at least, must be content with a short pen and ink sketch of the surrounding scenery, contrasting it with that which Governor Sir George Simpson calls the "adamantine desert of Lake Superior." There, along the north shore, the scenery expresses all that is sombre, terrible and perpetual—a sad magnificence whose only smile masks danger—where nature apparently never dares to laugh, and the calmest moment might be charged with treachery, if the storms that follow were not callous to destruction. Contrast the frank joyousness of the ever changing and delightful panorama of our own LAKE OF THE WOODS, and one wonders that man can be themselves amid such surroundings. In RAT PORTAGE BAY and islands the scenery is ever lovely. Here the coloring of lake, river and foliage of islands and mainland is gorgeous, and the rock so soft in its contour when compared with the angular and columnar trap, and the melting of the surrounding blue hills and waters so peaceful that nature seems to have come to rest in our own post tertiaries, and to forget the oceans of fire and the red hot mountains of the first wild ages, when she lashed herself into furies, that had men seen them, they would have been blasted for ever, whose very reminiscences, the Laurentides, seem like the cinders of burnt ages, half tempered with our modern improvements and refinements. Your labyrinth of islands and deeply indented bays is truly the dreamy memory of the world's stormy childhood, so old, so romantic, misty and long half forgotten that it has taken the ripe mellowness of the earth's great geologic age to temper the strong colors of the original picture and to render it, indeed, one of the most perfect and utterly charming landscapes in the world.

HEBE'S FALLS.

(On the Winnipeg river, almost within sight and sound of the town of Rat Portage.)

Nor will the memory of Hebe's Falls soon be forgotten, as the writer first saw it, early in the month of February some ten years ago, and paused there after a professional occupation of several hours. Even at this distant date it appears rather a thing belonging to the imagination than to life, whose proper place was in man's fancy and memory. The walls of the narrow gorge through which pass the seething, foaming waters of the Winnipeg, or "River of Rapids," were of ice, carved into facades of columns of fluted stalactites; the immense, overhanging brow of the Fall was of the brightest emerald, illuminated with the penetrating rays from a sunset of fiery red. Below, where all was dark shade, a partially formed ice bridge appeared, whose broken arch swallowed the cataract as night swallows the day, while the curling waves spread beneath like tumbled hair under a bridal veil of mist. Upon this occasion the whole scene was veiled in the magical shadows of evening, while the tamarac and cedar, crowned with clusters of stately pine, formed a dark frame to the glowing picture, and marked their intricate silhouettes in deepest olive against the western sky, now radiant with rose color and violet.

PLEASANT SUMMER RESORT

Its Attractions, Its Conveniences and Its Hotel Accommodations.

The Lake of the Woods district has been known for several years as a pleasant summer resort and its popularity as such is increasing from year to year. Situated as it is, it is naturally bound to be the summer outing resort for the prairie city, Winnipeg, and generally for the residents of Manitoba. As its beauties become better known so will its popularity increase, the rule in the case of visitors, almost without exception, being that those who come one year, come the next, and knowing that a good thing is sometimes the better of being shared, they tell their friends and induce them to come with them. Last year we had visitors from several parts of Manitoba, from Morris, Brandon and other towns, and from remarks made by these, there is no question but that the visitors from those parts will be much more numerous this year than in former years. As to visiting Winnipegers there are many from the judge on the bench, several Q. C.'s and prominent legal lights, to the young student who, though but beginning looks forward to making a name for himself. Then we have the teaching profession in great force; the busy merchant, wholesale and retail, and the many clerks employed by them.

Another element of attraction which is likely to draw largely in the future is the summer Institute of the Canadian Northwest Young Men's Christian Association. Last year the first association camp was held near Keewatin, and while the number attending was not large yet there was quite enough for a beginning, and judging from the success of similar meetings elsewhere there is no reason to doubt their success here.

The chief attraction is of course the lake, and its many islands and the opportunities for unlimited rowing, swimming, fishing and picnicing. There is another attraction and one which appears to have a strong hold on visitors, namely, the camp life on Coney Island and the other islands, where leaving the cares of housekeeping on a large or more modern scale the campers content themselves with tents or the small wooden houses erected on the island. For boating we have two well equipped establishments where visitors can have a choice of boats from the birch bark canoe or the more modern Peterboro to the family row boat or sailing yacht. These boats can be hired by the hour, day or week, or Ringer if desired, while seeing the railway carries passengers' boats free visitors may bring their own boats with them.

For communication between the triplet towns of Rat Portage, Norman and Keewatin we have the steamer Annie Mc., making its six trips either way daily and on special days more frequently when necessary. For parties desirous of having an outing on the lake Captain Bryden is ready with the Kenoma to take parties either large or small, to the many pleasant resorts, such as Ash Rapids, Rush Lake, and many other places including, of course, a visit to the Sultana and other mining properties, and not neglecting a sail down the Devil's Cap.

For those whose time will permit there is the trip to Fort Frances with Captain Lewis on the Shamrock, or Captain Mosher on the Highland Maid. This at present involves being away at least three or four days, but it is under consideration the placing of a swift boat on the route for passenger service only, and should this be arranged it will be possible to make the trip from here to Fort Frances in fifteen hours, and after a stop over of one or more days as visitors may desire return here in the same time.

Lovers of fishing can try their skill in catching pickerel, pike and white fish, which are numerous immediately around here, particularly at our two falls, while those who go farther afield and visit Ash Rapids may succeed in capturing some of the far-famed maskelonge.

For pedestrians the choice is not very large, but they may enjoy a walk out by the Rideout estate along the Winnipeg river, or along the colonization road between this and Keewatin, passing on the way the reduction works, the east falls and the Norman rapids. Visitors should not omit to visit both both east and west falls.

To get here, the Canadian Pacific Railway in the season holds out every inducement in the way of reduced rates and facilities for travelling in comfort, providing special Pullman cars which are switched off here so that parties are not under the necessity of getting out on arrival, but can take their ease until the morning, and when returning can take possession of the car the night previous to leaving. These facilities it is expected will be even greater in the time to come, and we look forward to the time when the railway company will offer such inducements to come here that but few of the residents of Winnipeg and many other places will be able to say they know not by personal knowledge the many varied attractions of our neighborhood.

For some years back the St. Andrews society of Winnipeg have had their annual excursion on Dominion day to this place and last year the town authorities bestirred themselves and held the first annual regatta making a two days celebration. From the success of this effort future regattas and exhibitions must prove a draw in bringing visitors.

Last, though by far not the least, comes the all important question of hotel accommodation. It is a matter of regret that neither Norman nor Keewatin have proper hotel accommodations but this is a lack which we think will be remedied before long. Rumor has it that some time the C. P. R. will see its way to build a large hotel, but this is among some of these things that may be—what concerns the reader is, what has been and is.

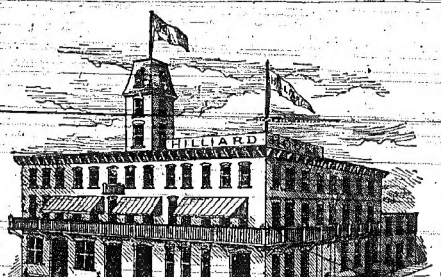
In 1882 we had the then well-known Rideout House subsequently destroyed by fire. Soon after we had the Queens, which now under the present management of the Rigney Bros., is a comfortable establishment. The Rigney Bros., have been here since 1887. This hotel has thirty-six bedrooms with accommodation for seventy-five and last year they had as many as eighty staying at one time with them.

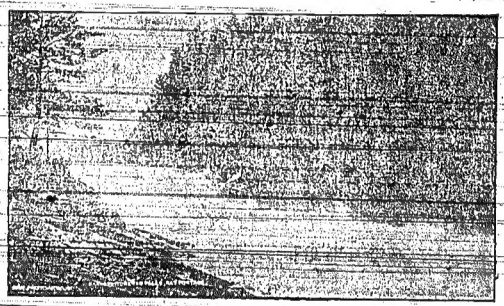
The Hilliard house began on a small scale in 1883, the ground plot being then only 35x50 feet, on which Mr. Hilliard erected a two storey building. In 1886 an additional storey was added and in 1887 an additional 40 feet secured on Second street. In 1891 50 feet additional on Main street was secured, and now we have a building 100x75, of three storeys and basement, containing sixty-five bedrooms, with accommodation in an ordinary way for 150 visitors and with extra folding beds and a doubling up 250 can be accommodated at a time. Last year as many as 250 were present at one time and the proprietor, Mr. Louis Hilliard, is ready in 1892 to welcome as many again and make them comfortable.

Next comes the Russell house which, under the present management, is becoming a well known and popular hotel. Its success was rather chequered but since Mr. Elias Arnold took hold of it in May, 1890, it has become better known. Mr. Arnold, before coming here had the Ellis house at Maditon. Feeling the necessity of increased accommodation improvements are just now being completed whereby the sleeping accommodation is nearly doubled. When completed the Russell house will have sixty-two bedrooms with sleeping room in a rush for 150 visitors, as also two sample rooms. Improvements are also being made in the sitting rooms and dining rooms.

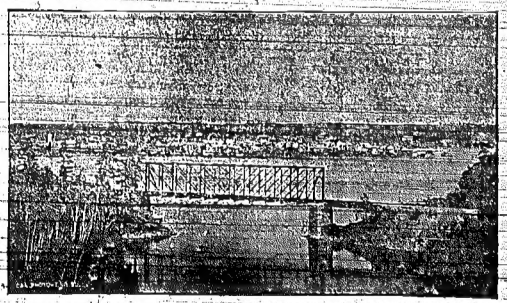
Mr. Drewry has in course of completion a new hotel which, while the sleeping accommodation will be limited, their being only twelve bedrooms, will have the advantage of a large hall, 30x70 feet, suitable for balls and social gatherings. Mr. Drewry proposes running his hotel on the European plan.

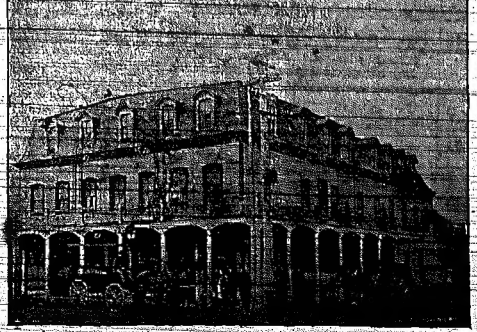
It is scarcely necessary to quote the many words of praise and recommendation by those who come here frequently, but in conclusion it might not be out of place to mention the favorable impressions carried away by Hon. A. S. Hardy, and Hon. J. M. Gibson after their visit here last fall. We would, however, invite our readers to come here and judge for themselves as we feel assured they will go away satisfied.





The illustration to the left is a photogravure of the East Falls of the Winnipeg river, known by the Indian name "Kakabekitchewan," called "Hybo's Falls" in maps elsewhere by Mr. Walpole Roland, C.E. The photogravure on the right was made from a view of the Town of Rat Portage, taken from near the falls with the railway bridge over the river in the foreground. This gravure is slightly faulty, which mars its printing qualities somewhat.





RUSSELL HOUSE, RAT PORTAGE.

Our Growth.

$136,000 worth of New Buildings last year.

Below we give a list of new buildings and additions erected during the past year. It was our intention to give fuller particulars, but we have not been able to secure them as fully as we desired, and we therefore give only the names of builders and the total cost, so far as we are able to ascertain. The list shows very substantial progress for one year.

G. Drewry, hotel	$10 000
Skating rink	900
W. McCarthy, 4 houses	3 200
G. A. Kobold	1 500
J. Robinson	1 100
R. Conn	400
F. Chambers	400
H. Smith	300
C. Carson	300
J. Ross	200
R. Lawrenson	1 900
T. Feighley	300
Addition to the Russell house	2 000
A. J. Parsons	1 200
H. McLeod	300
J. Eastwood	250
A. McDonald	900
P. U. Barsheau	1 200
C. Pope, 3 houses	2 900
F. L'Heureux	1 100
H. McLeod	1 200
A. McKinnon	1 500
H. F. Holmes	1 000
C. Clawson	1 000
C. Bied	1 000
W. Higgins	900
C. Smith	1 000
Jos. Fidler	200
J. Linklater	200
W. D. Coste	2 000
C. W. Belyea	1 000
H. McDonald	900
J. Morton	300
D. Williams	1 500
A. McDonald	500
S. Shephard	500
T. Hugh	300
G. P. Phillips	1 500
P. Proulx	600
A. S. Horswel	800
J. Hoss	1 800
L. C. McGinnis	1 000
D. Hogbboam	500
L. Hilliard, addition	10 000
C. Ward	600
Registry office	2 500
Reduction Works	61 500
J. Humble	400
J. Gardner	600
J. K. Bryden	800
J. Heaney	900
A. Gibson	1 600
H. Fenske & Co	600
Ice house	400
Marine slip	2 000
W. Lavoie	1 000
H. S. Grant	500
W. Wilson	800
Total	$135 950

RAT PORTAGE.

—It has been decided to call a public meeting for the 20th inst., for the discussion of the question of incorporation as a town.

—The old municipal council meet this evening to close the business of 1891, and the new council meet on the 18th to be sworn in.

—Mr. Belyea desires through THE RECORD to thank those who gave him their vote and influence last Monday and elected him to a seat as the municipal council board.

—On Sunday, the 17th, Chaplain Searle, of Auburn prison, New York, a very eloquent divine, will hold services in the Methodist church, and will deliver a very interesting lecture on the Monday evening following.

—"Didn't know it was loaded" killed a daughter of Mr. Ward, a turner in the C.P.R. shops at Ignace, on Wednesday last. A brother of the girl was cleaning a gun, when it was accidentally discharged, instantly killing his twelve year old sister.

—The municipal election last Monday resulted as follows: J. M. Savage, 225; C. W. Chadwick, 176; C. W. Belyea, 150; John Nash, 126; H. Rideout, 120; W. Young, 95; J. M. McRae, 82; J. B. Davies, 85. The first four, with Reeve Campbell elect, comprise the council for 1892.

—The Princess skating rink has received a big patronage since opening. The management have decided to offer substantial prizes for the following races next Friday evening: Gentlemen's race, 55 laps, 3 miles; ladies' and gentlemen's race, 9 laps; girls under 15, 5 laps; boys under 15, 5 laps.

—Mr. E. Arnold, of the Russell House, has secured an exceedingly fine caribou head, said by competent judges to be the best ever mounted in the Northwest. Mr. Arnold also secured a fine red deer head, said to be among the first ever shot on the Raley river, the species having been driven from the Pembina by settlement.

—Victoria hall is the name Mr. George Drewry has given his new hall, which is now about completed. It is being very tastefully finished, and will be fitted up with every convenience. It is a lofty and spacious room 30x70 feet, besides having a convenient dressing room. Mr. Arch. Campbell has the control of the hall for one year. The Foresters have secured it for their ball on the 18th, and this will be virtually its opening to the public.

(Continued from Third Page.)

street and will soon be hauled to the reduction works for treatment. A carload of this ore was sent to Omaha for treatment and gave a result of eight dollars per ton. This mine is a great mass of ore one hundred feet in width, and if treated with proper working machinery would be a bonanza.

BOULDER ISLAND.

This island is situated midway between Heenan's point and the Winnipeg Consolidated and contains about six acres. It was the first mine in the district to begin development and erect a mill. The property was owned by Mr. Wm. Gibbens and others, and a deal was made with Mr. John A. Macdonell, now deputy to the provincial secretary of Manitoba and Mr. H. S. Bailey, now employed in the patents office at Ottawa. A 10 stamp mill once used on a mine at Minnemora, was brought here and set upon the mine. Then the work of development started under the management of Mr. Bailey, and a shaft sunk at or near the water's edge on a three and a half foot vein. Everything looked favorable for the mine until the water level was struck. It was then found that the shaft was too near the lake, and to continue work expensive pumping machinery would be required. A consultation was then held by the managers and owners, and it was decided to abandon work at the time. Later on a sale was made of the mill to the Winnipeg Consolidated people, and after a little resistence by the owners of the property the mill was removed.

THE MINNESABIC.

This mine is situated near Big Stone Bay and is owned by Wm. Gibbens and the late C. M. Rideout. This is one of the earliest developed mines of this district. Some $1,500 was spent by the above named gentlemen in 1882 in testing the property. It has a vein of four feet well defined and heavily charged with iron pyrites. This is one of the properties that is sure to work in the spring. Now that the island question is settled, a patent can be issued.

THE CARIBOO.

The Cariboo is situated east of the Milwaukee mine and is owned by Dr. Scovil and Frank Moore. There are a number of no veins on this property, and with a little development will no doubt prove a valuable property. It is easy of access being only one mile from the C. P. R. and three miles from Rossland station.

THE ST. CROIX.

The St. Croix is situated on Helldiver bay, a small bay off Shoal lake, near Ash spur. This is a recent discovery and was opened for by Mr. Wm. Blanding, of Stillwater, Minnesota. Some development was made last fall but the season being so late a great amount of work could be done. It is the intention of Mr. Blanding and his associates to return here early in the spring and prosecute work with all possible vigor. There is a large body of ore in sight, and says gave a result of $22 per ton of gold, and four ounces of silver.

THE BAREBEAU.

The Barebeau is situated east of the Nickel Plate and is owned by Messrs. Chas. and Ben Crowsley, S. Matthews, and the late P. O. Caribeau. Several veins occur on the property and the first one discovered is six feet in width. Some test pits have been sunk on the veins and the result of assays gave 10 per ton in gold. The location is well wooded with plenty of water and accessible at all times of the year. There are improvements in sight to develope this property.

THE RAJAH.

The Rajah is situated east of the Barebeau, and was discovered by Messrs. McGee and Buchton in 1889. A sale of this property was negotiated in England by Mr. J. D. Caldwell a year ago, and a fine house was erected prior to beginning operations, but on failure of the Baring Brothers, of London, affected in some financial way the arrangements of the syndicate which was purchasing. It is expected, however, that the deal will soon be carried out.

OUR NATIVE LAND—FAIR CANADA.

God save our native land,
Free may she ever stand,
Fair Canada;
Long may we free be,
Sons of the brave and free,
Faithful to God and thee,
Fair Canada.

Fair as an opening flower,
Painted in Heaven's bower,
Fair Canada;
More many nations dwell,
Loving their freedom well,
Keeping where forests fell,
Fair Canada.

Land of great inland seas,
Swept by the mighty breeze,
Fair Canada;
Reaching from sea to sea,
Great will thy future be,
Land of the brave and free,
Fair Canada!

Land of the prairies wide,
Stretching like ocean's tide,
Fair Canada;
Land of green hill and dale,
Mountain and pleasant vale,
Here worth shall never fail,
Fair Canada!

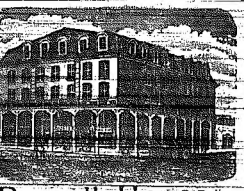
Come, then, from many lands,
Brave hearts and willing hands,
To Canada;
Come where rich virgin soil
Waits to reward your toil,
Share in the harvest spoil
Of Canada!

Rainy River Valley.

GRAND FARMING COUNTRY.

Though the Rainy river valley has been open to settlement for upwards of twelve years, its rich soil and excellent adaptability to farming are very little known. This may be accounted for by the fact that it is somewhat isolated, and attention has not been directed to it to the same extent as to other unsettled parts of the province or the prairies of the west. The Canadian portion of the Rainy river valley contains about one million acres of first class arable land, and is fully capable of supporting a farming population of at least fifty thousand, which would sustain a population of twenty-five thousand more business men and artizans of various kinds. There are now about three hundred settlers along the river front, who are all doing well and are very hopeful for the future. The general character of the soil is a rich calcareous drift formation, clay overlaid by a thin streak of whitish fine earth about six inches in thickness, and capped by a thick coating of black vegetable mould. These three mixed up together in the working of the land form a soil which cannot be excelled in any part of the Dominion. The timber along the river is chiefly large thrifty poplar, mixed with some scattering oak and swamp elm, and some evergreens such as balsam and spruce; inland the timber changes in character somewhat from that along the river shore, as large Balm of Gilead, spruce, balsam and tamarac are met with more frequently, and the nice open bush which prevails along the river banks is changed for a tangled brushy undergrowth; but the character of the soil remains the same. Tamarac and spruce swamps occur frequently throughout the whole river valley, but with very few exceptions may be easily drained. In nearly all these swamps the soil is black vegetable mould, varying in depth from one to three feet, with a subsoil of calcareous clay. Cultivation on a small scale has been carried on continuously for ten years by settlers along the river, and it has been amply demonstrated that all the hardy cereals and vegetables may be grown to the highest state of perfection. The settler going into the Rainy river valley has a good market already established. At scarcely any point in this rich and attractive valley would a settler be more than twenty miles from invigilable communication with Rat Portage, or Keewatin, where all kinds of farm produce are marketable at good prices. The pioneer in that choice extent of country does not have to squat on a location and wait there an indefinite length of time for a railroad to be built to carry out his crop. He can begin to earn money soon after his arrival, particularly so if he can readily adapt himself to favorable surroundings. With a most excellent soil and a ready market the Rainy river valley presents unsurpassed attractions for those seeking to establish new homes for themselves and their families.

—The third page of the Toronto Daily Mail is noted for "Want" advertisements. If you want a situation, a mechanic, a business, machinery, lodging, if you have lost or found anything, or if you want to find out where anyone is, advertise in the Toronto Daily Mail and read the advertisements on the third page of that paper. The charge is two cents a word each insertion, or ten cents a word for six insertions. Address THE MAIL, Toronto, Canada.



Russell House,

RAT PORTAGE, ONT.

Extensive alterations and additions have en recently comp eted, and the above ho. is now one of the most comfortable in the st, being heated throughout with hot air, pp with electric bells, and lighted by ectricity. LARGE AND COMMODIOUS SAMPLE OOMS. Table second to none. Free 'bus eets all trains.

ARNOLD, - - PROPRIETOR.

B. BROWNLEE,

TONSORIAL ARTIST,

RAT PORTAGE.

arlor opposite the Hilliard House, Main Street.

H. S. Grant,

Photographer,

RAT PORTAGE,

as many views of the scenery of the ake of the Woods, which will be of terest if sent to friends at a distance.

J. B. Davies,

Post Office, Norman,

as one of the Best Assortments west of Toronto in

GENERAL

MERCHANDISE

Comprising in GROCERIES—the astbrands of Canned Goods, Dessicated Rolled Oats, Rolled Wheat, Epps' nglish Cocoa, Van Houten's Dutch ocoa, Crosse & Blackwell's Pickles, e Finest Tea goown—Young Hyon, English Breakfast, Indian and apan.

CONFECTIONERY, STATIONERY & PATENT MEDICINES, RY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS AND SHOES, HATS AND CAPS, HARDWARE, GLASS, CHINA and DELF WARE.

All our Goods are the best and our prices are low.

J. B. DAVIES,

Norman.

For Sale.

2 DWELLINGS, now occupied and drawing good rents, situated near the hw school house. This is a good investment. Enquire of

CHAS. A. MOORE.

J. K. BRYDON, Issuer of Marriage Licenses, Rat Portage.

Call and see

A. CAMPBELL'S

STOCK OF

Xmas & Holiday Goods.

The Largest and Most Varied Ever Brought to Rat Portage, comprising

GIFT BOOKS,

Annuals, Poems, Bibles, Albums, Prayer and Hymn Books,

Fancy Toilet Articles,

Manicure Sets, Comb & Brush Sets, Xmas Cards, Dolls,

Xmas Papers and Magazines.

MAIN ST., RAT PORTAGE.

FOR A

NOBBY OUTFIT

CALL ON

C. C. Rance,

And see what he can do for you,

We guarantee perfect satisfaction or no sale.

C. C. RANCE,

HILLIARD HOUSE BLOCK,

Main St., Rat Portage.

MINING PROPERTY WANTED.

PROMISING UNDEVELOPED

LOCATIONS

Of Iron, Nickel, Gold, Silver, Antimony, Manganese, Asbestos, etc., purchased.

Send samples (stating location and price expected) by parcel post to

W. THOS. NEWMAN & E. S. TOWNSEND,

27 Wellington St. E., Toronto.

QUALITATIVE ASSAY FREE.

Look! Look! Look!

BEEF & PORK

By the side or carcass at

CLOSE PRICES.

HEADQUARTERS FOR

Vegetables !

Try our SAUERKRAUT.

A. GIBSON,

Second Street, Rat Portage.

Telephone 29.

P. C. MILLS,

Watchmkaer AND Jeweller,

Second St., Rat Portage.

Keeps constantly on hand a large and varied stock of

Watches Clocks & Jewelry

At Reasonable Prices.

All kinds of English, Swiss and American watches and clocks cleaned and repaired.

K Furniture Co.,

Undertakers & Embalmers,

Second Street.

Residence cor. Matheson and Second Sts.

Telephone 33.

A. S. HORSWILL,

Would respectfully ask them to call and get his NEW PRICES of

Groceries, Provisions, Fruits, &c.

ALL NEW GOODS

Select Oysters by the Quart or Gallon.

A. S. HORSWILL,

Telephone 59.

FREE DELIVERY.

The Skating Rink

is about to be opened. Now is the time to call at

J. HOSE'S

And buy your

SKATES.

SKATES for Misses, Maidens & Madams,

SKATES for Boys, Youths and Men,

SKATE Nuts, Bolts, Straps, Clamps and Wrenches,

SKATE STRAPS from 21 in. to 36 in. in length,

SKATES SHARPENED, full concave, equal to new,

SATISFACTION Guaranteed or no pay,

SLEIGHS for Children.

Superior American & Canadian Coal Oil always on hand.

FROM THE

PHARMACY.

Happy New Year to all.

Very easy to choose a present from ouy varied stock.

PLUSH, LEATHER, SILVER and SACHET GOODS.

Another addition in perfumes,

Lundborg's SwissLilac

SLEEPING DOLLS, SOLID IRON UNBREAKABLE TOYS.

See the Autoharps and Imported Accordeons

Cantiff & Johnson,

Telephone 72, - - Rat Portage.

WESTERN LUMBER CO., LTD.

CAPITAL $300,000.

Mills at Rat Portage, Ontario, and Fort Frances, Ontario.

Boards and Dimension Lumber

On hand or cut to order.

J. A. McRAE, President. JAS. M. SAVAGE, Manager. N. J. McINTYRE, Secretary.

Address all communications to the WESTERN LUMBER COMPANY, Limited.

See my New

Bedroom Suites and Sideboards.

Something entirely New and Elegant in design.

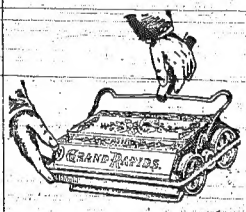
Fine Undertaking a Specialty.

A Complete Stock of Furnishings, including a Fine Hearse.

Telephone No. 69.

H. ELLIOTT, Main St., Rat Portage.

Residence next to J. Gardner's, opp. Hilliard House.



Brighten the New Year,

And you're likely looking for something to lighten your wife's labor Nothing you could buy would please her more than a good CARPET SWEEPER.

BISSEL'S

Grand Rapids is the best.

Saves Carpets and Labor.

JAMES ROBERTSON & CO.

SNOW FLAKE BAKERY.

Bread, Cake, and all kinds of Pastry,

FRUITS OF ALL KINDS,

Toys, Toys, and Hundreds of Dolls.

Goods Delivered Free to Norman and Keewatin.

J. F. PHILBIN.

THE HILLIARD HOUSE.

RAT PORTAGE,

Lake of the Woods.

This hotel has recently undergone extensive alterations and additions, having now seventy-five elegantly furnished rooms, hot and cold baths, electric light and electric bells in rooms.

Suits of rooms for families may be secured in advance by telegraph. Four well arranged sample rooms for commercial travellers. Free 'bus meets all trains.

The new bar and billiard room is situated in the large basement and is delightfully cool in warm weather.

The Hilliard House is so complete in every way to meet the requirements of tourists, it stands second to none in the Dominion.

Those who wish for health, combined with the sight of the beautiful, should come to Rat Portage. It can be said by those who have visited the Lake of the Woods: "Mine eyes behold new pleasures, while the landscape round it measures," and the breezes of the lake combined with the fragrance of the the pine lend their kindly influence to the invigorating of our system.

Mr. Hilliard has made arrangements with the proprietor of the steamer Kenina to furnish tickets to guests for excursions on the lake at the low rate of fifty cents per day.

LOUIS HILLIARD, Proprietor.

THE CROWN LANDS.

THEIR ADMINISTRATION.

The Most Important of the Departments of the Ontario Government.

The Bureau of Mines.—History of Its Formation and its Objects.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

The Crown Lands department of Ontario is the most important of the various government departments, inasmuch as it is the great revenue producing branch of the government, and with the exception of the amount received as subsidy from the Dominion, provides the largest part of the annual income of the province.

The duties of the department, instead of decreasing, are year by year growing greater and more complex. They comprise the sale and management of the crown, clergy and school lands still undisposed of; the locating of the settlers in the free grant districts, the surveying of new townships from time to time, as they are required for settlement or the purposes of the timber trade; the construction of colonization roads and bridges in the new and sparsely settled portions of the province where the settlers are not yet enabled to assume the burden of such works; the supervision of the vast area over which licenses to cut timber have been granted (such supervision becoming more difficult year by year as settlement increases); the collection of government charges and ground rents leviable upon such timber; and the settlement of the manifarious and often complicated questions which of necessity arise in the course of transactions covering so large a territory.

The management of the Crown lands, timber, minerals and colonization roads was in the hands of the late Hon. T. B. Pardee till his retirement on account of ill health in 1888. He was succeeded by the Hon. Arthur S. Hardy, (for many years provincial secretary) who has, during his three years occupancy of the office of commissioner of Crown lands, proven himself to possess that combination of executive ability, official integrity and judicial fairness which is essential to the successful control and management of such an important department.

The functions of the commissioner are very important and his discretionary powers, especially in deciding disputes between applicants for portions of the crown domain, are great. Mr. Hardy's successful administration of this department, therefore, is indisputable evidence, if such were needed, that he is one of the ablest members of the Hon. Oliver Mowat's cabinet.

In Mr. Aubrey White, the assistant commissioner, the commissioner has a valuable aid. Mr. White has a thorough knowledge of the different branches connected with the department, is a man of great business capacity and general culture and is in addition urbane and willing to oblige—qualities that are appreciated by the public who transact business with the department.

The department is comprised of six branches, viz: woods and forests; colonization roads, surveys, free grants and sales, patents, the accountant's branch and the bureau of mines. The following figures will give some idea of the scope of these branches and the work they perform:

The Crown lands sales between 1868 and 1871 averaged 59,100 acres a year; between 1871 and 1890 they averaged 50,000 acres a year—an decrease of 85 per cent. The increase in the number of timber licenses issued and of saw log and timber returns received and checked yearly was also, in both cases, nearly 300 per cent.

The number of townships set apart for free grant purposes between 1868 and 1871 was 55; since 1872 the number has been raised to 154—an addition of 99 townships. The net area located under the free grant system between 1868 and 1871 was 410,880 acres; since 1872 this area has been increased to 3,338,106—an addition of 2,927,226. The net number of locates between 1868 and 1871 was 3,300; since 1872 this number has been increased to 25,000—an addition of 21,070.

The acquisition of the new territory which has been added to the western portion of the province has increased considerably the work of this department. During 1888 the government brought into operation the "Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act," by which twenty townships containing over 230,000 acres of land have been opened for settlement.

The following statement, condensed from the reports of the commissioner of Crown lands, shows the progress of the settlement of the free grant districts since 1868:

YEAR.	Number of locates.	Number of acres located.	Number of purchases.	Number of acres sold.	Number of lots, the locations of which have been cancelled.	Number of patents issued.
1868	511	36336	82	2120	6	128
1869	666	59041	52	956	105	110
1870	1200	155427	148	45835	192	66
1871	1113	151055	199	34523	318	89
1872	575	153065	97	22648	413	233
1873	757	160602	79	5038	385	354
1874	919	119070	57	2114	453	755
1875	1387	186807	83	3896	381	670
1876	1463	192858	110	2261	462	516
1877	1914	260801	139	5531	691	542
1878	2115	274298	188	6937	1118	472
1879	1956	266500	123	4911	1012	513
1880	1292	181745	110	3621	870	487
1881	1077	153764	155	8870	781	487
1882	932	120535	150	5562	624	592
1883	985	134591	143	8927	587	790
1884	1137	151667	123	5866	537	669
1885	1236	176951	102	5996	553	581
1886	1149	162734	135	5474	607	703
1887	903	122772	109	5694	612	549
1888	842	103602	74	2257	556	523
1889	578	114050	81	3708	657	386
1890	610	83278	53	2315	518	456
	25366	3589964	2598	162788	12452	14660

The population of the free grant districts has increased with great rapidity under this system of settlement. In 1871 the inhabitants of Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Nipissing districts numbered only 6,949; at the census of 1891 they numbered 39,538. A similar increase has taken place in those portions of Haliburton, Peterboro', Hastings, Addington, Frontenac, Renfrew, and Algoma, which have been brought under the operation of the "Free Grants and Homesteads Act."

The sales of lands are still considerable in spite of the working of the free grant system. In 1890 according to the Crown lands commissioner's report, there was sold of crown, clergy, common school, and grammar school lands 60,996 acres for the sum of $100,777.

WOODS AND FORESTS.

The revenue from timber is derived from (1) bonuses, (2) annual ground rents, and (3) timber dues. The timber limits are always disposed of at public auction, the person obtaining a limit being the one who bids the highest, the ground rent being the same in all cases—$2.00 per square mile—and the timber dues ($1.00 per thousand feet) being payable only as the timber is cut. The bonus secures for the purchaser nothing but the first right to obtain an annual license to cut timber on a particular limit, subject to the payment of ground rent and of certain dues on every log cut. The chief part of the yearly revenue from this branch arises from the collection of ground rents and timber dues, but from time to time, as settlement encroaches on the timber land, the latter have to be put under timber license, i. e., sold at auction in the sense above explained.

The total collection for the year covered by the last report (1890) is $916,155, which includes $135,479 paid in on account of bonus, the latter amount being deducted leaves $780,676 as the revenue from timber dues, ground rent, etc., during the year.

SALES OF TIMBER LIMITS.

Since Mr. Mowat became premier in 1873 every sale of timber limits has been carried out under the auspices of the late commissioner of Crown lands. The area sold within the 17 years to 1890 was 3,276 square miles, for which the Ontario government received in round numbers, by way of bonus, the large amount of $8,400,084, an average rate of nearly $751 a square mile. For the same area of timber lands, the Dominion government received, by way of bonus, only $14,455, or a uniform rate of only $5 a square mile. The sale of timber limits in 1887 disposed of 459 square miles, and realized $1,313,755, or the magnificent average of $2,859 a mile. While at the sale held on October 1, 1890, 8141 square miles of timber territory, mostly in the Rainy River and Thunder Bay districts, was sold for a bonus of $321,862, or an average bonus per square mile of $995.

The first sale of pine timber lands, after the Liberal party came into power in 1871, took place in 1872, while the Hon. W. R. Scott was commissioner of Crown lands. The total amount bid at the sale was $592,691.

The importance of this department as a source of provincial revenue is seen from the following table of receipts during the years 1873-90.

CROWN LANDS AND TIMBER REVENUE.

1873	$1,121,264		B't over $7,378,526
1874	890,076	1883	623,447
1875	494,004	1884	770,305
1876	672,370	1885	736,805
1877	628,713	1886	820,895
1878	445,192	1887	1,118,832
1879	457,340	1888	1,460,089
1880	616,111	1889	1,304,239
1881	992,504	1890	1,128,052
1882	$1,095,152		

Total...$15,926,610

or an average of $884,928 for the past eighteen years.

The following figures also emphasize the work done by the department since 1879 in the construction of roads and bridges in the newer parts of the province:

New roads built, 1873-90 inclusive	3,436 miles
Roads repaired 1873-90 inclus.	7,070 "
Bridges built 1873-90 inclusive	58,020 feet
Expenditure 1873-90 inclusive	$2,123,826 65

BUREAU OF MINES.

In May, 1888, the Government of Ontario appointed a Commission to investigate and report upon the mineral resources of the Province, and, among other things, the Commission in their report recommended the establishment of a Bureau of Mines, to assist in the development of the province's latent mineral wealth. In pursuance of this recommendation, the Legislature, by its Act of last session, provided that

"There shall be established in connection with the Department of Crown Lands a Bureau of Mines to aid in promoting the mining interests of the Province, and the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may appoint an officer to be known as the Director of the Bureau of Mines, who shall act under the direction of the Commissioner of Crown Lands."

The Bureau of Mines was accordingly organized in May of the present year, Mr. Archibald Blue being appointed Director. Mr. Blue was transferred to this office from that of Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Secretary of the Bureau of Statistics, in which his career had been eminently successful. The comprehensiveness and accuracy of the reports issued from this department naturally suggested Mr. Blue's name to the Government when they were looking about for a secretary to the mining commission. The admirable and well known report of the commission, which was largely the work of Mr. Blue, amply justified the choice; while that gentleman's labors as a member of the commission afforded him the experience and practical insight so necessary to the head of the Bureau.

OBJECTS OF THE BUREAU.

The wording of the Act establishing the Bureau does not confine its operations to any specified groove, but leaves to it the utmost freedom of action. The end prescribed for the Bureau is that it shall "aid in promoting the mining interests of the Province." There are many ways in which it can do so, and the Bureau's usefulness is, in fact, limited only by the amount of the appropriation voted by the Legislature. The first and main object of the Bureau, however, is to ascertain and advertise the mineral wealth of the Province. It had long been known that hidden beneath the soil and between the rocks of Ontario lay vast stores of mineral, but details of information were scanty and unavailable to the public until the mining commission collected them from the lips of miners, prospectors, surveyors and others, and presented them to the people in compact and convenient form. It will be the business of the Bureau of Mines to continue the work of the Commission. Its aim will be not so much the collection of scientific facts (though there can be no reason why it should neglect this duty,) as the bringing together and focussing in its annual reports information of a useful and practical kind which will serve to make known to the world the riches which lie beneath the feet of the people of Ontario. In order to discover the best means of developing a given industry, it is necessary that it should be carefully studied, and all the facts relating to it gathered together. Particularly is this the case with the mining industry of the Province, which in its present state, as compared with what it will ultimately be, is as the infant in the cradle to the strong man.

We can scarcely begin to form an adequate conception of the extent and richness of our mineral resources. By far the larger portion of the area of the Province is as yet unsurveyed, a wilderness for the wandering Indian or nomad trapper. What stores of mineral there may be in these unbroden wilds, no one can tell, but so far as the hardy explorer has ventured into their depths, the reports bear out the belief that the vast deposits of gold, silver, iron, copper and nickel occurring in the known districts are equalled in richness and extent by those lying undiscovered and unclaimed in the remoter regions. But within the past three or four years, great discoveries have been made in the more accessible parts of the Province; the world's supply of nickel has been found; gold, silver, iron and copper have been brought to light where their existence was scarcely suspected before, and fresh discoveries are being made almost daily. In fact, the great need of the mining industry of Ontario today is not more mineral, but more development. One mine in operation is worth more to the country at large than a hundred locations, however rich, allowed to remain in a state of nature, and a leading aim of the Bureau of Mines will be to interest capitalists and others by placing before them in systematic form reliable information as to the actual mining capabilities of the Province.

The collection of mining statistics will be another of its duties, statistics which will embrace not only those of production and value, but of the cost of labor, provisions, rates of freight, and all the other factors affecting profit and loss upon which capitalists require to satisfy themselves before risking their money in the work of development. No doubt the Bureau will also in time gather together a collection representative of the ores of the Province, one which will exhibit the geological conditions under which the various minerals occur. A collection of this kind, with the specimens properly classified and described, could not fail to be of great educational value. The mineral wealth of Ontario is not by any means confined to what are distinctively known as the "mineral regions." Salt, petroleum, gypsum, natural gas, peat, phosphate, marl, building and ornamental stone, brick tile and term cotta clays, etc., occur in valuable deposits in various parts of the Province. As to some of these materials, the localities to which they are confined appear now to be pretty well known, but as to others, such as natural gas, phosphate, and clay suitable for making pressed brick and ornamental mouldings, research is at the present time bringing to light many promising fields. The question of natural gas, for instance, is one beginning to assume importance, and even now advantage is being taken in one or two places of this result of nature's beneficent forces for economic purposes.

It will be the duty of the Bureau to collect and publish all available data on subjects such as these, as well as to afford, where practicable, specific information bearing on the occurrence of minerals in particular localities. The question of a geological survey of the Province is an exceedingly important one, and by many it is felt that Ontario, which has to bear so large a proportion of the Dominion Geological Survey, does not receive the share of attention to which it is entitled. The Bureau has not as yet the funds at its disposal which a systematic survey would require, but it is hoped that a beginning even in this direction may be attempted. The inspection of mines under 53 Vic., cap. 10, is carried on by Mr. A. Slaght, of Waterford, the efficient Inspector.

Though as yet in its infancy, the Bureau of Mines gives distinct promise of being an invaluable factor in the promotion of the mining industry of Ontario. It is in the hands of an able Director, and we have every reason to anticipate that the future operations of the Bureau will be such as to more than justify its organization, and the expenditure of the comparatively small sum annually which it entails upon the Province.

Ontario Mining Laws.

The following is a summary of the chief provisions of the amendments to the Mining Laws of Ontario passed during the session of 1891:

1. In Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River and that part of Nipissing and the French and Mattawa Rivers, the price per acre of mining lands sold after the 4th day of May, 1891, is $2.50 in a surveyed township $4 in unsurveyed territory if within 12 miles of a railway, and if beyond that limit $3.50 in surveyed and $3 in unsurveyed territory. Elsewhere the price is $3 in a surveyed township any part of which lies within 12 miles of a railway and $2 if at a greater distance.

2. Instead of by grant in the fee simple mining land may be obtained under a ten years lease at a per acre rental, unless otherwise fixed by regulation, of $1 for the first year and 50 cent yearly thereafter if North of Lake Nipissing and the French and Mattawa rivers, or of 60 cents for the first year and 15 cents yearly thereafter if situated elsewhere with rights of renewal at the expiration for an additional ten years at the same rental, and with a right of renewal thereafter every twenty years, subject to payment of the yearly rent charge in advance and to such conditions as may be provided by regulation. But the lessee may at any time purchase the land so held, in which case the final years rent shall be treated as part of the purchase money.

3. The owner or lessee of mining land sold or leased by the crown after the 4th day of May, 1891, is required during the first seven years to spend in actual mining operations $4 per acre, if the location exceeds 160 acres, and $6 per acre if it is 160 acres or less.

4. After the 4th day of May, 1891, all ores or minerals of silver, nickle, or nickle and copper taken from lands sold or leased by the Crown are subject to a royalty of 3 per cent. and all other ores or minerals to such royalty as shall from time to time be fixed by Order in Council, not exceeding in the case of iron 2 per cent; and as to any other ores or minerals not exceeding 5 per cent; and such royalties shall be calculated upon the value of the ores at the pit's mouth. But royalties shall not be imposed or collected upon any ores until after seven years from date of the patent or lease, except as to mines known to be rich in nickel, and as to those not until after four years.

5. Hereafter in all lands sold under the Public Lands Act, or for agricultural purposes, all minerals and mining rights are reserved to the Crown unless otherwise provided for in the patent or grant.

6. In the case of mining lands for which bona fide application was made in writing to the Department prior to the 24th of April, 1891, grants may be made where the application is received within three months from the 4th of May, 1891, and otherwise at the price and upon the conditions heretofore applicable in accordance with the terms of section 1, sub-section 5, of the Act of 1890.

ARCHIBALD BLUE,
Director.

Office of Bureau of Mines,
Toronto, May 21, 1891.

Canadian Pacific Railway,

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAY,

Connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

TIME TABLE,

Read Down. All Tks.	STATIONS.	Read Up. Pac. Tm.
7.00 p. m.	San Fran. s. r.	7.45 a. m.
10.00 "	Portland, O., r. p.	6.30 "
3.00 "	Tacoma, W. T.	10.00 "
5.00 "	Seattle, W. T.	8.00 "
A 5.00 Lv.	Victoria	Ar 19.30 "
18.30	Vancouver	14.35 "
13.10	Westminster	14.22 "
22.25	Banff Hot Springs	6.45 "
2.20	Calgary	2.30 "
9.30	Medicine Hat	16.15 "
21.55	Moose Jaw	7.50 "
23.36	Regina	5.24 "
1.21	Qu'Appelle	3.50 "
7.53 (Local)	Yorkton (Local)	12.7
10.00 Ar. 7.00	Brandon	23.15 10.30 Ar
11.15 Lv. 7.00	"	20.00 Lv
14.11 9.40	Portage la Prairie	20.45 16.47
16.30 11.45	Winnipeg	18.45 14.20
11.30 a. m. Lv	Winnipeg Ar	A 12.30 p. m.
13.10	Morris	11.0 a. m.
14.05	Gretna	10.20 "
3.20	Duluth	8.00 "
6.15 a. m.	Minneapolis	5.00 "
6.55 Ar	St. Paul	Lv 7.15 "
10.00 p. m. Ar	Chicago	Lv 11.00 p. m.
F 17.45 De	Winnipeg	E 10.10 Ar.
18.40	Selkirk East	9.21
20.07	Whitemouth	7.57 "
23.15	Keewatin	5.17 "
23.22	Norman	5.10 "
G 23.35	Rat Portage	F 5.00 "
0.10	Ignace	D 3.15 "
12.30	Fort William	15.10 "
G 13.15 Ar	Port Arthur	14.30 Lv.
3.30 p.m.	"	D 3.15 p.m.
H 3.13 p.m.	Sudbury	Ar. C 1.12 p.m.
H 7.00 p.m. Lv	North Bay	Ar. C 8.35 a.m.
B 4.30 a.m.	Toronto	B 11.00 p.m.
9.04	Hamilton	6.55 "
A 11.20 a.m.	Niagara Falls	3.35
A 11.36 noon	London	5.00 "
B 2.55 p.m. Ar	Detroit	Lv B 12.05 "
4.05 a.m.	Ottawa	12.00 "
8.00 a.m.	Montreal	8.40 p.m.

REFERENCES.

A, daily. B, daily except Sundays. C, daily except Monday. D, daily except Tuesday. E, daily except Wednesday. F, daily except Thursday. G, daily except Friday. H, daily except Saturday. J, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. K, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. L, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Trains east of Brandon run on central standard time; between Brandon and Donald on mountain standard time; and west of Donald on Pacific standard time.

OUR MINES.

Their Development.

VERY RICH IN GOLD.

Splendid Prospects.

On this page we give a brief description of some of the principal mining claims in this district. Comparatively speaking, we have only referred to a small number of those located, there are hundreds of others not mentioned. One local surveyor alone has surveyed upwards of 300 locations, and is fast adding to the number. Many of them are recent discoveries, and no developments have as yet been made. The prospects for increased mining operations in this district are exceedingly good, as a greater interest than ever before is taken in our mineral resources. The recent completion and operation of extensive reduction works have given a strong impetus to our mining enterprises, and there is no doubt the coming summer will see many new mines opened up and more vigorous prosecution of work on those now being operated. This happy condition of things is mainly due to the fact that our quartz veins are large, well defined and rich on the surface. Once the title is secured it is not necessary to expend a very large amount of capital in mining before realizing paying returns. The difficulties respecting titles have been a great injury to the mineral progress of our district, and have not only delayed general development for ten years, but have turned capital aside when it had indicated a flow in our direction. As shown fully elsewhere, these difficulties are now all removed and patents may be secured everywhere. That our mines are exceedingly rich has been demonstrated by assays and by the gold bricks turned out at the reduction works, proving the correctness of assays. They are easily accessible, with plenty of wood and water near at hand. Our descriptions of the different mines mentioned are arranged to some extent in the order of time of discovery and development.

THE KEEWATIN.

This mine was originally discovered by Messrs. McFadden, Sherlock, Lowery and Lockwood, is situated on Hay island about eight miles from Rat Portage, and contains about eighty acres. A large outcrop of quartz on the lake shore free gold was found and showing it assayed high. In 1882 a company was organized for the development of this property, the promoter being Mr. M. W. Maher, of New York. The late Hon. John Norquay, then Premier of Manitoba, was president, and Mr. A. W. Ross, M.P., of Winnipeg, vice-president. A shaft was sunk on the property to a depth of eighty feet, but the work was not done on the vein, and therefore there were no results. After some $15,000 had been squandered the company collapsed. It is said that Mr. Maher, the managing director, carried away some $12,000 in hard cash as the result of his scheme. The property is a good one, and but for wildcat speculation in stock would today have been a good paying mine. Should it be properly worked there is no doubt it will yet yield rich returns.

THE GEORGE HEENAN.

This property is also situated on Hay island, and is rated a fine property, but has also been badly handled. The claim was first discovered by a French Canadian in 1881. Mr. Joe. Thompson also asserts that he was associated with the discovery. Later on a company was organized by Mr. D. R. Brown, Mrs. Groff and Jones, of Winnipeg, took most of the stock. About $12,000 was expended on buildings and development. Some very large nuggets of gold were taken from a narrow vein at a jutting point, but it was in too close proximity to the water and was abandoned in the hope of finding the vein inland but failed, and the work stopped.

WINNIPEG CONSOLIDATED.

This was the most promising mine on the Lake of the Woods at one time. It is situated on Big Stone Bay about fourteen miles from Rat Portage, and was discovered by Messrs. George McVicar and George Mitchell in 1881. The following year a company composed chiefly of Winnipeg people was organized. Mr. John Brown was chosen managing director, and the mine progressed very favorably under his management. Unfortunately most of the stock holders had been heavy speculators during the Winnipeg boom and lost heavily, and on this account insisted upon putting machinery on the mine before development would justify, contrary to the wishes of the manager, to enable them, as they thought, to sell stock. An old rattletrap of a mill that had been erected on Boulder island was purchased and put upon the property. This proved disastrous, as only about one third of the gold was saved, the other two thirds being washed away with the tailings. A shaft was sunk 125 feet, and when the mine closed down a well defined lode twelve feet in width was struck at the bottom of the shaft, the ore from which assayed $18 of gold per ton. This property was sold about two years ago at sheriff sale and purchased by Messrs. A. Mathieson and Chaffey who had a large interest in the company. The patent has since been issued to them.

THE CANADA MINING CO.

The property of this Company adjoins the Winnipeg Consolidated, and was discovered by Messrs. John R. Brown and Ambrose Cyrette in 1882. A company was soon after organized with Gen. Rosser, then chief engineer of the C.P.R., as president. A considerable sum of money was expended on the property and a shaft sunk eighteen feet. The vein is three and a half feet in width, and heavily charged with iron pyrites, and also showing free gold in the pan. Mr P. L. Knappen, of Winnipeg, then promoter of the Knappen house, was commissioned to go to England to float the stock of the company there, but not meeting with success he returned, and the mine closed down for want of capital to carry on the work.

THE BULL DOG.

The Bull Dog mine lies west of the Winnipeg Consolidated, and is a fine property, containing over 200 acres with a well defined vein of blue ribbon quartz eight feet in width. A company was organized on this property in 1883 by Mr. J. R. Brown under a charter from the State of New York. The stockholders were chiefly Winnipeg men, and the failure of the Winnipeg Consolidated Co. disheartened them, and the mine shut down after some fifteen feet of shaft had been sunk.

THE SULTANA.

The Sultana is situated on a peninsula between Bald Indian Bay and Pine Portage Bay though it is sometimes called an island, as a deep marsh separates it from the main land. The original Sultana from which the island derives its name was discovered by Mr. Charles Moore and J. Hennesy in 1886. This property has been regarded as the bonanza of the district, and recent developments made by Mr. Jeff. Hildreth demonstrates that fact. Several good offers have been made for the property but the owners are not disposed to sell until further developments are made. The property is now owned by Mr. J. F. Caldwell, of Winnipeg, who has fifteen-sixteenths and Mr. Jacob Hennesy of Rat Portage, who has the other sixteenth. Mr. Jeff. Hildreth, formerly of the Black Hills, got an option last summer on the property for six months. He went to Chicago where he soon got capitalists interested in his scheme. They at once sent up a Mr. Davies, an able expert, to examine the mine, which he did, and in order to get a further report he was sent a second time. He was taken ill on his way home from Rat Portage, and died before he got his work completed. This unfortunate circumstance terminated the deal for the time being, but it is hoped that Mr. Hildreth will be able to get his men in line next spring, if not for the Sultana, for some other good property. There are many to choose from.

THE OPHIR.

The Ophir is situated on Sultana island and adjoining the original Sultana. This property is owned by the Ontario Mining Co., which holds some 400 acres, divided into 40 acre lots (40 acres only being allowed by the Indian Department, who assumed control of the islands previous to the settlement of the boundary dispute.) This Department claimed the island and sold the land at five dollars per acre, the price then asked by the Ontario Government being two dollars. In 1886, while some prospecting work was being done on this property, a very rich deposit was struck. Excitement ran high over the discovery, and had it been anywhere else than in the then disputed territory there would have been a tremendous stampede started to this district, but that unfortunate dispute prevented any great rush here. However, a number of prominent mining men were induced to come. Among them were Mr. D. Ryan and a Mr. Pugh, of St. Paul. No deal, of course, could be effected on account of the absence of titles. In 1881 Mr. Granger, representing Taylor Bros., of London, England, came here, attracted by the accounts he heard of the district, and soon closed a deal for his people. Mr. Coward, a practical mining man of large experience, came out from England, bringing a crew of Cornish miners with him. He at once began the erection of buildings for dwellings, office, etc., and then set to work sinking a shaft. When down about forty feet, and the mine was showing excellent results, the Keewatin Lumber Co. stepped in with an injunction and caused work to be stopped, pending settlement in the courts. Taylor Bros. withdrew, not caring to be drawn into a law suit, and it is only recently that the Keewatin Lumber Co. withdrew their claims. It is expected that active operations will be resumed on this property at an early date. At least it is hoped for by everyone in the district.

THE PINE PORTAGE.

This promising mine was discovered by Mr. John Pine McDonald in 1882. He had associated with him Messrs. A. J. Fraser and Allen R. McDonald. The mine is about three quarters of a mile from Pine Portage bay and twelve miles from Rat Portage, and the whole property contains 240 acres. The vein was first discovered in a deep gorge at the foot of a high ridge, and subsequently traced for upwards of a mile. The property was purchased by Mr. T. W. Dobie, of Tilsonburg, Ont., for the round sum of $25,000 in cash, the largest price ever paid in this district for an undeveloped mine. Considerable development was carried on and a stamp mill erected on the property. Although the ore was rich in both gold and silver it was found to be too refractory with the simple appliances at hand, and for this reason the mill and mine were shut down until some successful method could be found to deal with the concentrates. Since then one of Mr. Dobie's partners died, and it appeared that he held interests in the mine for others. At his death his estate was involved and with it his interests in the mine. This prevented Mr. Dobie from further operating the mine. He was in town this week and states that all the difficulties have been removed, and he will soon resume operations. He feels confident that the refractory works will take care of his concentrates. The Pine Portage is the best developed mine in the district. The shaft sunk on the vein is 125 feet in depth, and there are also drifting. It has, as already intimated, a ten stamp mill complete, and a dwelling house 26x18, two stories high, as well as a miners camp, all in good condition. The ore from the bottom of the shaft gave a result by assay of $18.50 of gold per ton as an average of the twelve feet lode. We look for a bright future for this mine.

THE ARGYLE.

This mine is situated on Clearwater bay about sixteen miles southwest of Rat Portage. It was discovered in 1881 by Messrs. McFadden, Lowrey and Sherlock. The vein is about two and a half feet in width, of beautiful rose quartz, showing visible free gold in the rock. A company was organized on this property in 1882, composed of Winnipeg men, with Mr. Peter McCarthy as president and Mr. H. S. Miller as managing director. In an effort to boom the stock prematurely a stamp mill was erected on the property before any actual development was made. This was about the collapse of the Winnipeg boom, which ended disastrously to some of the promoters of the company, and the mine was shut down in consequence. The mill was afterwards stolen bodily from the mine by one McHouse and taken to British Columbia, where it was put on a silver property. Later the building was burned and the machinery brought back to Rat Portage, and it is now lying at the Gold Hill to be put in operation again soon.

MANITOBA CONSOLIDATED.

The Manitoba Consolidated adjoins the Argyle, and was originally owned by Thos. Hanson, M.D. A company was formed on this property, headed by Mr. W. N. Gregory, of New Hampshire, Mr. H. B. Hanmore, a journalist of Chicago, and Mr. J. Butterfield, of Minneapolis, formerly connected with the C.P.R. shops at Winnipeg. During Superintendent Stickney's time considerable work was done, good buildings erected and a seventy five feet shaft sunk. The vein is well defined and carries $28 of gold per ton at the bottom of the shaft. It is expected that work will be resumed on this property early in the spring.

THE WOODCHUCK.

This location is on Clearwater Bay, and is considered good promising property. It is owned by Mr. Robert Bunting of this town. It was discovered by Messrs. John Little and Joseph Thompson. There is a shaft sunk thirty-two feet on a four and half feet vein.

GOLD HILL.

This property is situated on the east shore of Moore Bay and is composed of three or four different locations, comprising some 800 acres in all. A company was organized in 1886 when some developing work was done in sinking shafts, test pits and erecting buildings. A part of the property was affected by the Keewatin Lumber Co.'s timber lease and as no title to the property could be obtained the work stopped until last spring when Mr. Samuel Leavitt and Mr. J. K. Wright, of Minneapolis, owners, with Mr. D. B. Burdette, came here to resume operations. They purchased the little steam yacht Regina, at Winnipeg, and shipped her to Rat Portage and run her in connection with their mine in carrying out supplies and men for work. A crew of men have been kept steadily at work stripping veins, sinking shafts and test pits, and getting a building up for a ten stamp mill. The machinery is now on the ground and awaiting the arrival of Mr. Leavitt to superintend the work of placing the machinery. Some very rich ore was struck recently on this property, and by spring we may look for some big results.

THE EUREKA.

The Eureka mine is situated northeast of Pine Portage bay, and has a fine large regularly defined vein twelve feet in width that breaks through an overflow of trap. This mine was bought last winter from Mr. Angus Nelson, Oscar Linburg and George Heenan, the discoverers. A company of Michigan men, mostly residents of Bessemer, were the purchasers. A large camp, an office and a blacksmith shop were erected on the property and a shaft twenty-five feet in depth was sunk at an outlay of $1,500. Work was stopped last spring pending completion of the reduction works. The mine was under the management of Capt. Knowls, a practical mining man, who is expected here soon to locate and resume work on the mine.

GOLD CREEK.

This mine is situated on the east side of Pine Portage bay, and is owned by Messrs. Whiting, Kendall, Thompson and Young. The vein occurs in chloritic slates and is rich in silver and gold. The gold in this vein is lamellar, or more generally known as leaf gold. The mine was leased to Mr. G. F. Ernst, of St. Paul, last spring, with a condition of purchase, for thirty thousand dollars. A fine house has been erected on the property, and work on the mine has been going on continuously. They are now down about forty feet, and the character of the ore is about as at the surface. A carload of the ore was sent from this mine to Aurora, Ill., to be treated, and Mr. Ernst is away looking after it. A big result is looked for.

THE KING.

This mine is owned by Mr. Wm. Young, contains about 240 acres, is situated south of Pine Portage, and is supposed to be a part of the Pine Portage system. It is massive in size, following along the side and apex of a ridge between Pine Portage bay and Long lake, and is traceable for upwards of two miles. A shaft is down eighteen feet, showing thirteen feet of solid ore of a cream color, heavily charged with mineral, with considerable hornblende distributed through the gangue. The ore is low grade, running about eight dollars per ton, but with the quantity of ore in sight and the advantages it has for getting out ore, this mine should prove a bonanza some day.

THE SKOLAPIKA.

The Skolapika adjoins the Eureka, and is owned by Messrs. Oscar Linberg and Chas. Leaf, the discoverers. This is a fine vein similar to the Eureka, heavily charged with mineral, showing chalco-pyrites, bearing evidence of carrying copper as well as gold and silver. A shaft is down nine feet in a seven foot body of ore.

THE JOHNNY BAPTISTE.

This property is owned by Mr Oliver Dounais, of Port Arthur, and is situated on the south shore of Clearwater bay. It was discovered about two years ago by a Frenchman named Labelle. The vein was about two and half feet on the surface, but widened as development progressed until at a depth of sixty feet the body of ore is six feet in width and shows rich in free gold in the pan. Work has been suspended for the winter as the owner proposes to put up a stamp mill on the property in the spring.

THE CROW'S NEST.

This property is on Kendall bay and is also owned by Mr. Oliver Dounais, of Port Arthur. It is rated as very valuable, $7,000 having been paid for it eight years ago. The discovery was made by Mr. S. Whiting. A lawsuit is pending in the courts in connection with this property between Messrs. Whiting and Wm. Young, but it in no way affects the owner of the title to the property.

THE MILWAUKEE.

This property was formerly owned by Dr. Scovil and Mr. Frank Moore, and is situated north of Break neck lake. It was sold two years ago by the owners for eight thousand dollars, part down, and the balance to be paid at stated payments. The vein is small but very rich, and widens as the work progresses. A shaft forty feet deep was sunk on the mine to test it. Next summer machinery will be put on this property, and the work of development will soon be pushed with all possible speed under Mr. Echwiler who negotiated the purchase.

DIVIR MINE.

Situated north of Rossland station, is a fine promising property, showing free gold in quantities. The property was purchased last summer by Mr. Webster and associates from Dr. Scovil and Mr. Frank Moore, the discoverers. The neat sum of seven thousand dollars was paid, and the new proprietors started developments at once on the property. A fine house and mill building are erected, and work on the mine is being carried on under the able management of Mr. Gaylord. A Cannon Ball pulverizer will be used in milling this ore. Mr. R. Linn, the President of the Reduction Works Co., was the negotiator of the deal, and has an interest with Mr. Webster.

THE MURIEL.

This mine is situated north west of the Milwaukee, and is owned by Mr. E. Seager, the discoverer. It has been considerably developed, having a large comfortable camp built on the property. A number of veins are traceable on this location, and on one a shaft is sunk down twelve feet, showing a strong, well defined lode carrying free gold. Negotiations are on for a lease of this property, and if arrangements are completed, work will be pushed in the spring with all possible speed.

THE STAR.

The Star location is situated near Rossland station, and was discovered by Mr. Angus Nelson and Mr. Peter Swanson, with whom Mr. H. F. Holmes is now associated as owner. A sale is now pending on this mine. The parties negotiating for the purchase are Wisconsin Lumbermen. Eight thousand dollars is the price asked. The vein is a rose colored, sugary quartz, showing lots of free gold. The lode is well defined and traceable for a considerable distance. It is only half a mile from Rossland station.

THE BEN HARRISON.

The Ben Harrison mine is situated near the town of Keewatin, and is the property of Captain Johnson. An arrangement was made last winter with Mr. L. S. Franklin, of Duluth, and Mr. A. S. Harris, to develop this property. A lease was given, and a crew of men was put on sinking a shaft and testing the property. A hole was put down to a depth of twelve feet, and the property improved so rapidly that it was decided to close down until the Reduction Works were ready to treat ore. It is expected that operations will be resumed next spring.

THE NICKEL CHIEF.

This nickel bearing property was located by Mr. Chas. Moore in 1889. It is a large vein of ferruginous ore. The lode crops out on aspur of an abrupt and high elevation on Long Elm Creek, a small stream flowing into Black Sturgeon lake. This property contains 160 acres and is well wooded, with plenty of water, and easy of access. It is about three miles north of the C. P. R. on a good road that runs down to Black Sturgeon lake. Considerable development has been made, a camp built and veins prospected. Besides the nickel lode, there are three veins of gold quartz on the property. A number of assays have been made, and the result is equal to the average prospects of Sudbury district. A sale is now pending, which will likely be consummated as soon as an expert can report on the mine.

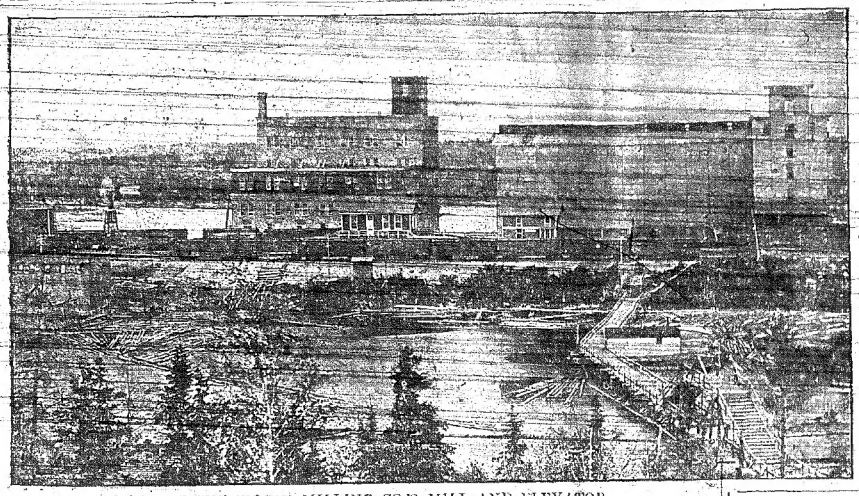
THE MAIDEN.

The Maiden mining location is owned by Mr. Donald Morrison, of Winnipeg, and was discovered by Mr. Wm. Young in 1881. It is situated on an island east of Pine Portage bay. A large promising vein four and a half feet in diameter shows up rich in the pan.

THE CLIMAX.

The Climax lies north east of the Maiden, and is also a discovery of Mr. Wm. Young. Last fall a sale was made of this property by Mr. Donald Morrison to Mr. A. Egan, of Winnipeg. Last winter a crew of miners was set to work taking out ore, and teams put to hauling it to Rat Portage. Some 700 tons of the ore are now on the

(continued on Seventh Page.)



LAKE OF THE WOODS MILLING CO.'S MILL AND ELEVATOR.

Lake of the Woods milling Co. Ltd.

The largest flouring mill in the Dominion of Canada is that of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company at Keewatin, just three miles from Rat Portage. It has steady a capacity of 3,000 barrels per day, is driven exclusively by water power, there being 21 feet of head, which does not vary one foot in the year. The company have storage provided for 750,000 bushels of wheat. They manufacture flour both in barrels and sacks, their sacks varying from 24 to 280 pounds. Their brand of the Five Roses is known throughout the Eastern Provinces and is recognised as the leading hard spring wheat barrelled flour. The flour manufactured by this company is sold from Halifax to Victoria. In connection with the mill is an extensive barrel factory, where the staves are cut from the logs and everything in connection with the making of the barrel is done on the premises. The company also have nineteen elevators in various parts of Manitoba, whence their wheat supply is derived. These are built of a uniform size each having a capacity of 35,000 bushels of wheat. The company have offices at Montreal, Keewatin and Winnipeg. The president, Mr. Robert Meaghen and the manager, Mr. W. A. Hastings, both reside in Montreal. The superintendent at Keewatin is Mr. G. V. Hastings, while Mr. S. A. McGaw, the manager of the buying department, is located at Winnipeg, and Mr. A. McQueen represents the company at Vancouver, B. C. Quotations are furnished on application at any of the company's offices.

The company have also a mill of 700 barrels a day capacity at Portage la Prairie, and offices and flour storage at Ottawa and Toronto. They have elevators at Keewatin, Portage la Prairie, Burnside, Carberry, Douglas, Griswold, Virden, Elkhorn, Grenfell, McDonald, Rosenfeldt, Gretna, Plum Coulee, Thornhill, Ninga, Souris, Hartney, Melita, Carman, Freeshank, Methven, and buyers at nearly every wheat station in Manitoba and the Territories.

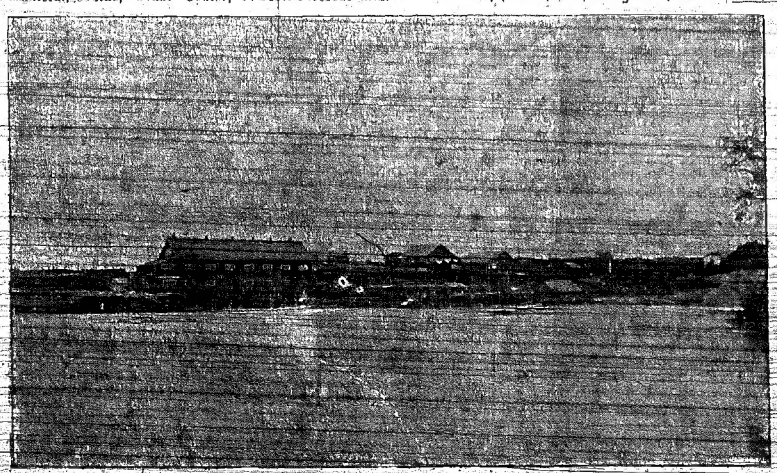
Keewatin Lumbering and Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

This company have very extensive saw and planing mills at Keewatin. The mills were built in 1879 and 1880, are run by water power, and have a joint capacity of 20,000,000 feet per annum. Timber is obtained from the country around the Lake of the Woods, where the company own large timber limits, and also from Minnesota. The logs from Minnesota are brought to the mills at Keewatin by way of Rainy River and Lake of the Woods. The lumber is disposed of throughout Manitoba and the Northwest territories, all of the output going westward. Everything required in the building trade is supplied from the Keewatin mills. The company was the pioneer company of the Keewatin district, they having gone there long before the C. P. R. was built. In fact they sawed the timber for the C. P. R. bridges all through the north shore section. Mr. John Mather is the managing director of the company, and Messrs. R. A. Mather and D. L. Mather manage rs for the inside and outside work respectively. The company also are the promoters of the Rainy River Boom Co., a work of great value to lumbermen in the Lake of the Woods District. The boom has a capacity of 40,000,000 feet, the work being especially well constructed, fully equal to the best booms in the country. The boom is used for retaining all the logs for the Lake of the Woods mills, where they are separated for the various owners and rafted for towing to their respective mills.

—Mr. Mahews, night operator of the C. P. R., has gone west. Mr. J. Scott succeeds him.

Dick, Banning & Co.

This firm have a very complete lumber manufacturing establishment just east of the Keewatin railway station. The site was located ten years ago by Mr. J. W. Macaulay, and a raceway made across what was the old Indian portage between the Lake of the Woods and Darlington bay, of the Winnipeg river, and the mill built the same year. The following year it was purchased by the present proprietors, who have since carried on the business under the able management of Mr. Edwin Newell. They cut ten million feet of lumber the past season, and have shipped about the same quantity to their numerous customers in the west. Their head office is located in Winnipeg, where both Messrs. Dick and Banning reside.



KEEWATIN L. & M. CO.'S SAW MILL.

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